



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **HIWATA, Akira, et al.**

Group Art Unit: **3744**

Serial No.: **10/655,020**

Filed: **September 5, 2003**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 6047

For: **REFRIGERATION CYCLE APPARATUS**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 1, 2004

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

Documents AA, AF-AG and AK-AO were cited in a European Search Report dated February 6, 2004. A copy of the search report is also enclosed.

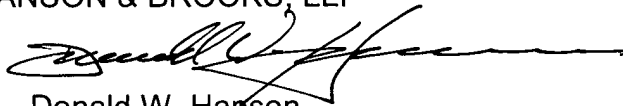
No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits or expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry of the national stage of the above-captioned application.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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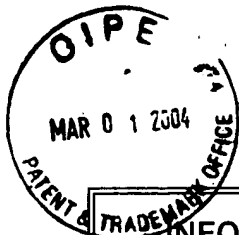


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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: PTO-1449 and references (8)  
European Search Report (02/06/04)

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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION PTO-1449</b>	Atty. Docket No. <b>031052</b>	Serial No. <b>10/655,020</b>
	Applicant(s): <b>HIWATA, Akira, et al.</b>	
	Filing Date: <b>September 5, 2003</b>	Group Art Unit: <b>3744</b>

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examine r Initial		Document No.	Name	Date	Class	Subcla ss	Filing Date (If appropriate)
_____	AA	2001/0025509 A1	Fujii et al.	10/04/01	62	467	01/24/01
_____	AB						
_____	AC						
_____	AD						
_____	AE						

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes or No)
_____	AF	1 046 869 A1	10/25/00	Europe	Yes
_____	AG	02/18848 A1	03/07/02	WO	Yes
_____	AH				
_____	AI				
_____	AJ				

### OTHER DOCUMENTS

_____	AK	Patent Abstracts of Japan 09250830, 09/22/97.
_____	AL	Patent Abstracts of Japan 2000161805, 06/16/00.
_____	AM	Patent Abstracts of Japan 2000234814, 08/29/00.
_____	AN	Patent Abstracts of Japan 2001235246, 08/31/01.
_____	AO	Patent Abstracts of Japan 2002022298, 01/23/02.
_____	AP	European Search Report dated 02/06/04.

Examiner	Date Considered
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